

DRAFT

SECTION L - INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS

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L.1 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

(FAR 52.252-1) (FEB 1998)

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The Offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the Offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the Offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this address:

<http://www.arnet.gov/far>.

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1)

NUMBER	DATE	TITLE
52.204-6	JUN 1999	DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS) NUMBER
52.214-34	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
52.214-35	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN U.S. CURRENCY
52.215-1	MAR 2001	INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS-COMPETITIVE ACQUISITIONS (ALTERNATES I AND II)
52.215-16	OCT 1997	FACILITIES CAPITAL COST OF MONEY
52.222-24	FEB 1999	PREAWARD ON-SITE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW

L.2 REGULATORY NOTICE (CAR 1352.252-71)(MAR 2000)

Offerors are advised that certain provisions and clauses identified with a Commerce Acquisition Regulation (CAR) notation for identification purposes, have not yet been incorporated into the CAR. However, all of these items are binding for this acquisition and will eventually be contained in the CAR at Part 13 of Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

L.3 INQUIRIES (CAR 1352.215-73)(MAR 2000)

Offerors must submit all questions concerning this solicitation in writing to the Contracting Officer. **Questions submitted within 25 days after issuance of this solicitation shall be answered prior to the proposal due date. Any Amendments issued and all response to questions, will be posted on Acquisition Management Division's web site at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>.**

OFFERORS ARE INSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTACT ONLY THE PERSON CITED IN BLOCK 10 OF THE SF33 ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THIS REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD.

Offerors may use the OCCS Q&A web site to contact the person cited in Block 10 of the SF33. The RFP Q&A URL is: <http://www.ncep.noaa.gov/CONOPS/OCCS/>

L.4 TYPE OF CONTRACT (FAR 52.216-1) (APR 1984)

The Government contemplates award of a fixed-price, lease contract resulting from this solicitation.

L.5 SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

(a) Markings: It is important that the outer envelope or wrapping of your offer be addressed as follows:

Offeror's return address

TO: SEE SPECIFIC ADDRESSES CITED BELOW

Solicitation No. 52-DDNW-1-90029

Closing Date:

Closing Time: 3:00 PM local time

(b) **HAND CARRIED OFFERS:** Proposals hand carried must be delivered to the offices cited below (**SEALED OFFERS ONLY**). Hand carried offers must be delivered and contact must be made with the below offices by the date and time specified in this solicitation. Proposals received at the destination(s) after the date and time specified for receipt will be considered LATE and dealt with in accordance with the Late Proposals Provisions of paragraph (c)(3) of FAR 52.215-01, **INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION**.

All proposals (offers) shall be submitted in the quantities and format specified below:

L.5.1 STANDARD FORM 33, SOLICITATION, OFFER, AND AWARD

The Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer, and Award, (SF 33) is being used for this solicitation. This form is used by the Government as a request for proposal and upon submission by the Offeror it becomes the Offeror's proposal. As such it is an offer which can be unilaterally accepted by the Contracting Officer and awarded on said SF 33. The offer and acceptance form the contract. Therefore, the following points must be strictly adhered to by the Offeror in submitting the proposal.

(a) The SF 33 must be executed by a representative of the Offeror authorized to commit the Offeror to contractual obligations. The authority to sign a proposal, but not an offer, subject to unilateral acceptance and award, is not sufficient authorization to sign the SF 33.

(b) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THE SF 33 OR THE RELATED PAGES WHICH ARE A PART OF THE ENCLOSED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL PACKET. You are to complete those parts which require items such as prices, place of performance, etc., when such items are called for in the enclosed request for proposal. A place is provided for you to insert such information.

Three (3) originally executed (i.e., with original signatures) copies of the Standard Form of contract (SF 33) and one (1) copy of Section K fully executed shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division OFA611
1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.2 OFFEROR'S TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The technical proposal shall be submitted in hard copies and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Microsoft Word format. Ten (10) hard copies and ten (10) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's technical proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

Gary Wohl
NWS
5200 Auth Road
Room 307
Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304

Four (4) copies of the Offeror's technical proposal (hard copy only) shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division OFA611
1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3 OFFEROR'S COST/PRICE PROPOSAL

The Cost/Price proposal shall be submitted in hard copy and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Microsoft Word and or Excel format. Five (5) hard copies and ten (10) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be prepared in the format described in this Section L.6.2 and Section B and submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

Gary Wohl
NWS
5200 Auth Road
Room 307
Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304

Four (4) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copy of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.2 and Section B to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division OFA611
1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.4 PAST PERFORMANCE

The information requested in L.6 PAST PERFORMANCE shall be submitted as follows:

Five (5) hard copies and Five (5) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copies shall be submitted to the following address

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

Gary Wohl
NWS
5200 Auth Road
Room 307
Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304

Two (2) copies shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address
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William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Acquisition Management Division OFA611 1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604 Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.5 SUBCONTRACTING PLAN

In accordance with FAR 52.219-9, SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN (included in Section I.1 by reference), offerors (large business concerns only) are required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan. Reference L.14, SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507, and L.15, HUBZONE SUBCONTRACTING GOALS, of this Section for applicable subcontracting goals. This Plan shall be included with the initial proposal and submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address
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William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Acquisition Management Division OFA611 1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604 Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.6 LIVE TEST DEMONSTRATION

The Government will conduct pre-award Live Test Demonstrations (LTDs) to examine the components of the OCCS in operation. **Only those Offerors within the competitive range (See M.1.2) will be scheduled for the LTD.** A LTD system hardware configuration very similar to the proposed OCCS system configuration should be used. A LTD software configuration identical to the proposed OCCS configuration, excluding Government provided application codes, must be used and documented. Offerors should clearly state any differences between the LTD software configuration and the proposed OCCS configuration if the two are not identical. Additional consideration will be given if the LTD system, both hardware and software, is identical to the proposed initial system.

Requirements to be met during the LTD include (but are not limited to):

- 1) A demonstration of the performance levels of the proposed system in as much detail as possible
- 2) A demonstration of the features of the architecture which support the extrapolation (if any) to the proposed system from the systems used in the LTD and to supply data for the RFP response

- 3) Verification of the benchmark data presented in the RFP response
- 4) Examination of the proposed interactive environment. After the performance data presented in the RFP response has been verified, a scripted interactive session will be run by itself and concurrently with benchmark codes to evaluate how well the interactive resources are isolated from the batch production workload.
- 5) A functional demonstration of the proposed HSM software, separate from the timed benchmark demonstration. This demonstration must show the proposed HSM software in operation, and allow the Government to interact with the demonstration system. The proposed HSM hardware is not required for this demonstration but a limited hardware suite may add to the usefulness of this demonstration and aid in the evaluation of the software.

One or more written problems will be presented regarding problem escalation procedures. The Offeror will be required to explain how they would handle the problem(s) as described.

LTDs will take place during a single visit to each Offeror in the Competitive Range. The Government will allocate an Offeror two consecutive days for the LTD. NCEP expects its LTD work to take about six hours. The LTD will begin at 9:00 AM and end no later than 9:00 PM local time on the first day. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the first day, the LTD will be repeated the second day. Should an Offeror successfully complete a portion(s) of the LTD on the first day, at the Government's discretion, the Offeror may be required to complete only the remaining or unsuccessful portion(s) the second day. If any portion of the LTD is performed on the second day, it will begin not earlier than 9:00 AM local time and will terminate before 3:00 PM. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the second day, the Government will not provide another opportunity to successfully complete the LTD. Failure to successfully complete the LTD may, but will not necessarily, result in disqualification of the Offeror from further consideration. Such failure may also result in downgrade of the Offeror's proposal.

L.6 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be prepared and submitted as described below.

L.6.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The technical proposal must address all the elements in Section C, Statement of Need. The technical proposal will be used to evaluate an offerors' ability to provide and perform the requirements detailed in Section C. Offerors should bear in mind that Risk will be assessed for all elements of the technical proposal.

The technical proposal must be organized with sections tabbed and arranged as described below. The arrangement will follow the elements of Section C. The technical proposal, at the least, should describe the Offeror's response to the requirements contained in Section C. The technical proposal should include additional information the Offeror believes will more completely describe their ability to meet NCEP's needs.

The technical proposal must be prepared using the Times New Roman font in 12 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format "section - page", where section is the Section C section number, and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

The technical proposal must use August 1, 2005, as the start of the OCCS system life. Upgrades must be specified as "month/year. The acceptance test for each upgrade starts on the first day of the specified month.

The technical proposal may be up to 100 pages long (50 sheets of paper when printed double sided). The final revision of the technical proposal must be provided as a complete document, not as change pages. In addition, a change document must be provided in which all deleted text is marked with a "strikeout" (i.e., ~~strikeout~~) and added or modified text is yellow color-highlighted (i.e., **yellow-color highlighted**).

The technical proposal organization is provided below. Instructions are provided and Section C text has been paraphrased for the sake of brevity. Offerors must refer to Section C for the full text.

1.1 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of NCEP's overall mission and around the clock mission/computational requirements and risk management.

1.2 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of NCEP's required period of performance for this contract.

1.3 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of NCEP's need for additional processing power to meet increasing mission requirements.

1.4 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of NCEP's current configuration, minimum 48 month period of performance.

1.5 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of the critical nature of NCEP's mission and the necessity of a non-disruptive transfer of operations to new OCCS and non-disruptive periodic enhancements.

1.6 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of NCEP's fixed time schedule for on-time product generation, its need to run capability problems in specific time-windows and how the Offeror intends to provide adequate computational power growth to meet NCEP's future requirements.

1.7 ACQUISITION GOAL

Describe an understanding of the relationship between the primary and backup systems and the need for identical system configuration and a technical plan to maintain 99% product generation objectives while invoking the backup system resource.

2.1 OBJECTIVES

Describe an understanding of NCEP's product improvement requirements, the need for the OCCS to strike a balance between capability, capacity and I/O processing and the need for a flexible contract to provide for ancillary systems and support services.

2.2. OBJECTIVES

Describe an understanding that in most cases, Section C sets minimum levels of performance and that innovative or more efficient solutions are encouraged.

2.3.1 OBJECTIVES

Provide a high-level system diagram of the OCCS at initial delivery and each upgrade. Provide a high level system description. Describe system components, such as nodes and interconnect fabric, and the overall architecture of the system with particular attention to performance and system dependability. Describe design aspects that maximize performance such as different node types, memory distribution, etc. Describe system hardware not addressed elsewhere in the technical proposal.

Describe an understanding of NCEP's requirement for a complete and balanced system designed to support NCEP's workload. Offerors should not address any of the following 11 attributes here if they are addressed elsewhere in the technical proposal. Offerors are encouraged to offer attributes not among those in the attribute list. Offerors are reminded to address all attributes, evaluate their system with respect to NCEP's Priority Levels (Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3), and either describe the attribute or state that they can not address the attribute.

Attribute List

1. Aggregate system dependability
2. Extent and duration of any required code conversion, including Government and contractor support.
3. Numerical reproducibility
4. Integrated software engineering and development environment
5. System upgradability and serviceability
6. Disk subsystem performance, resiliency and reliability
7. Hierarchical storage management system performance, resiliency and reliability
8. Input/Output balance between system, disk and HSM
9. Workload administration, scheduling, monitoring and execution
10. Network connectivity and performance
11. Production workload balancing with development workload
12. Support Personnel (including key personnel)
13. Training and Documentation
14. Data Migration Plan
15. Runtime variability
16. Primary/Backup system design

2.3.1.1 System Performance [Level 1]

Offerors shall make reference to the benchmark performance tables provided with the Benchmark Instructions at J.3.

Provide a one-page table showing the OCCS hardware configurations, performance levels, and HSM configuration proposed for the base contract period.

Provide Benchmark results to demonstrate both the capability and capacity of the proposed systems as described in Section J.

Describe the performance guarantee and a plan to upgrade the system should it not meet the performance guarantees. Describe other system performance features.

2.3.1.1.1 System Performance - Ancillary System [Level 3]

Offerors are invited to describe innovative solutions and NCEP access.

2.3.1.2 Numerical Reproducibility [Level 1]

Describe compliance with this attribute.

2.3.1.3 Run Time Variability [Level 1]

Describe compliance with this attribute.

2.3.1.4 System Dependability [Level 1]

Describe hardware attributes that contribute to system reliability/availability including system architecture, fault tolerance features, redundancy, alerts, and automated features. Offerors should explain whether or not their OCCS supports the testing of new features (hardware, software or configuration) in a risk free manner and/or whether a separate test system will be provided. Offerors should describe corporate actions that enhance reliability/availability claims, such as on-site spares, integrated spare nodes or disks, etc.

Describe how the OCCS will meet NCEP requirements for:

- on-time product generation
- operational use time
- reliability
- availability

Describe:

- system administration other software features related to system dependability;
- hardware or architectural features related to system dependability;
- corporate action and/or policies related to system dependability.

2.3.1.5 System Serviceability [Level 1]

Describe system serviceability features, especially as they minimize impact to NCEP operations.

2.3.1.6 Memory [Level 1]

Describe the memory configuration, how it relates to workload optimization and how it supports overall balanced performance of the OCCS.

2.3.1.7 Directly Attached System Storage [Level 1]

Describe the directly attached system storage being offered, anticipated growth projections, and how it supports overall balanced performance of the OCCS. If the offer includes multiple instances of the operating system which result in separate management of the storage, describe how the storage will be divided and managed, including how data will be accessible if the roles of development and operational support are reversed.

2.3.1.8 Scalable Enterprise Storage [Level 1]

Describe the proposed technology including how heterogeneous computers will share resources. List features, options, and anticipated growth. Describe how the storage subsystem provides ease of use for programmers and administration by storage managers. List any special actions that end-users must take to migrate data through the HSM onto less costly media. Differentiate between shared storage and archive storage and show

how all enterprise storage is controlled from a single interface. Briefly describe the initial aggregate and sustained transfer rates and show how these can be expanded without interrupting continuous use of the subsystem. Describe how NCEP's existing archive system and data will be migrated.

2.3.1.8.1 Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) [Level 1]

Describe how the migration of data across all categories of storage will be fully automated and require no special action by the computer user.

2.3.1.8.2 Required Features [Level 1]

Briefly address (few sentences) each of the required features.

2.3.1.8.3 Desirable Features [Level 1]

Briefly address (few sentences) each of the desirable features.

2.3.1.8.4 Option for re-purposing GFE after the end of the current contract

Describe how Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) from the current CCS will be re-purposed for use with the OCCS.

2.3.1.8.5 Data transfer to the Scalable Enterprise Storage subsystem

Describe how data will be transferred from the current CCS in Gaithersburg, MD to the OCCS in the vendor provided facility. This will be a contractor responsibility with Government oversight.

2.3.1.9 Operating System [Level 1]

Describe the key features of the OS. Describe the upgrade cycle and methodology for detecting and correcting bugs. Describe any special measures taken to insure changes to the OS will not disrupt NCEP operations.

Describe the time to shut the system down and to perform a cold restart. Emergency procedures, if any, should be discussed. System enhancements to accelerate these processes should be examined if applicable.

2.3.1.9.1 Operating System [Level 3]

Describe whether NCEP may pre-test new OS releases and/or beta-test new features.

2.3.1.9.2 Accounting [Level 1]

Describe the system accounting package attributes delivered with the OCCS.

2.3.1.9.3 Security [Level 1]

Describe the system.

2.3.1.10 Processors [Level 1]

Describe processors, including design elements critical to NCEP applications and dependability. Describe the roadmap into the optional periods of performance, if possible.

2.3.1.11 Single Point System Administration [Level 1]

Describe this attribute.

2.3.1.12 Network Connectivity [Level 1]

Describe how this will be accomplished.

2.3.2.1 Compilers [Level 1]

Describe salient features and conforming standards of the compilers. Provide a WWW site, if possible.

2.3.2.2 Parallel Programming and Debugger [Level 1]

Describe salient features and conforming standards of these attributes. Provide a WWW site, if possible.

2.3.2.3 Parallel Programming and Debugger [Level 1]

Describe MPI-2 support. Provide a URL, if possible.

2.3.2.4 Serial Debugger [Level 1]

Describe salient features and conforming standards of this attribute. Provide a URL, if possible.

2.3.2.5 Libraries [Level 1]

Describe salient features and conforming standards of this attribute. Provide a URL, if possible.

2.3.2.6 Filesystem [Level 1]

Describe this attribute with particular attention to system dependability features. Provide a URL, if possible. Describe how home directories are handled. Offerors must indicate if a reboot of the system is required when a filesystem reconfiguration is performed.

2.3.3.1 System Administration [Level 1]

Describe staffing and around the clock support.

2.3.3.2 Application Support [Level 1]

Describe application support with particular attention to meteorological applications.

2.3.3.2.1 Application Support [Level 3]

Describe opportunities for collaborative work.

2.3.4.1 Checkpoint Restart [Level 1]

Describe support for non-system initiated Checkpoint restart.

2.3.4.1.1 System Initiated Checkpoint Restart [Level 2]

Describe this attribute if available and discuss the benefit/cost with respect to non-system initiated checkpoint restart and system resource utilization.

2.3.4.2 Workload Management Software [Level 1]

Describe the salient features and conforming standards of this attribute. Describe how the software will allow NCEP to support its operational obligations and at the same time make maximal use of its computational resources.

2.3.5 Periodic Performance Improvements [Level 1]

Describe specific OCCS improvements within the base period of performance. Describe how a balanced system will be maintained. Describe performance improvements during the optional periods of performance, if possible.

2.3.6 Workload Migration [Level 1]

Describe the level of support to be provided for the application code migration. Include specific key personnel that will be involved and indicate whether these personnel were directly involved in benchmark run preparation. Indicate whether the key personnel will be available full time and on site.

2.3.7 Pre-delivery System [Level 1]

Describe this attribute of the redelivery system, where the system will be located and the methods used for Government access.

2.3.8 System Installation

Describe the installation plan and proposed schedule.

2.3.9 Live Test Demonstration

Describe the planned LTD (See L5.6) system and LTD location. Confirm that the configuration of the LTD system is similar to the proposed system. If differences exist between the system to be used for the LTD and the proposed system, explain the differences.

2.3.10 Training [Level 1]

Describe the training plan.

2.3.11 Documentation [Level 1]

Describe how the requirements will be met. Be specific with regards to the number of hardcopy manuals. [Note: The Government desires commercially available hardcopy manuals and does NOT require the offeror to print manuals from a softcopy source.]

2.3.12 Earth System Modeling Framework (ESMF) [Level 1]

Describe how at what point during the life of the OCCS contract the proposed system can be configured to comply with ESMF requirements.

2.3.13 Computer Facility [Level 1]

Describe, in general terms, the Offeror's facility, which satisfy requirements listed in Section C, Appendix B. Facility details, including floorplan drawings (AutoCad format on CDROM) must be included in a separate appendix. Offerors must cost the facility option separately and should assume that the Government will provide funding for this option outside of the OCCS budget.

3.1 Overview and Projected Workload

Demonstrate an understanding of NCEP's workload by describing how the Offeror's system will meet NCEP requirements during the base period of performance and during the two three year option periods.

3.2 Operational and Developmental Workload Split

Demonstrate an understanding of NCEP's workload split by describing what system attributes, hardware/software/support, will be used to maintain NCEP's rigorous operational production schedule and at the same time support NCEP's developmental activities.

3.3 System Integration into the NCEP Network

Describe the Offeror's support services for this work.

EXCEPTIONS

List all exceptions taken to the Government's requirements, giving the offeror's rationale for each exception.

OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS

Offeror Qualifications. Give a brief description of the offeror addressing the qualifications, experience, and corporate resources that allow the offeror to satisfy the Government's requirements.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. OCCS Management. Give a brief description of how the project is to be organized, staffed, and managed, identifying all subcontractors.
2. OCCS Personnel. State the number of software engineers, hardware engineers, and applications analysts proposed, and describe their qualifications and duties.

BENCHMARKS

Insert the offeror's written benchmark response, as requested by the benchmark instructions.

The requested benchmark spreadsheets must be provided separate from the technical proposal. Each offeror must provide three machine-readable copies and three hardcopies of the benchmark spreadsheets.

OPTION PERIOD

Give responses for the option period.

Configurations and Performance Levels. Provide a table showing the guaranteed minimum level of performance, the size of disk storage and the HSM capacity for the option period. Performance should be provided in units of the OCCS, Phase 1 system, e.g., 50X OCCS, Phase 1. Provide an implementation schedule for the option period. The Government will use this information to construct a “power under the curve” figure as described in Section M.3. Offerors are reminded that they must maintain overall system dependability and system balance as described in Section M.1.5.

Provide a description, as far as is possible, of the system design and configuration associated with the option period. Offerors should include projected levels of performance if the Offeror believes it can exceed the guaranteed minimum level of performance. The Offeror should explain the rationale for any differences in projected performance vs. the guaranteed minimum level.

L.6.2 COST PROPOSALS

As stated in Section B, the Government anticipates leasing the equipment during the base contract period and option periods. However, the Government shall own the HSM at the end of the base period of performance and each option period.

Offerors are required to provide detailed pricing proposals that include all cost elements by month (e.g., lease cost, hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site, etc.). Offerors are required to submit separate pages for each contract year depicting all costs. If alternate methods of acquisition are proposed, a separate proposal for each acquisition method must be submitted. Offerors are required to submit their cost proposals in a format similar to the Tables at J.4.

The Offeror is required to include the following in its cost/price proposal:

- A. Price for hardware by item.
- B. Price for software. Provide monthly pricing for each item of software offered. Indicate if it is leased software or purchased software.
- C. A breakout by labor category of all services proposed (e.g., hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site applications analyst, etc.) and total price for each item. A separate breakout is required for each year of the base contract period.
- D. A detailed description and breakout of any other price proposed.

If proposed, cost information for each subcontractor and consultant shall be furnished in the same format and level of detail as prescribed for the prime Offeror. Additionally, the Offeror shall submit the following information:

- 1. A description of the items to be furnished by the subcontractor.

2. Identification of the proposed subcontractor and an explanation of why and how the proposed subcontractor was selected including the extent of competition obtained.

3. The proposed subcontract price, the Offeror's cost or price analysis thereof, and performance/delivery schedule.

4. Identification of the type of subcontract to be used.

Offerors are not required to submit certified cost or pricing data with their cost proposal. Full- and-open competition is expected which will be used to determine prices fair and reasonable. However, Offerors may be requested to provide additional information in the event prices appear over-stated or under-stated.

Offerors are required to submit cost/price proposals based upon the \$218.3 Million funding profile presented in the Project Agreement. This profile includes the price of the support services (i.e., hardware/maintenance support and on-site support personnel) for the base contract period and option periods.

L.6.3 PAST PERFORMANCE

In this section, the Offeror shall describe its capabilities (and those of its subcontractors and consultants, if any), and provide its experience with at least five (5) and no more than seven (7) **relevant** contracts of a similar nature and magnitude within the past three (3) years. The Offeror shall discuss how its previous experience prepares it to undertake a contract of the scope envisioned in this solicitation. The Offeror must provide information to assist the Government in assessing its ability to perform the contract as proposed.

The "Performance Evaluation Report" contained in Section J.2 of this solicitation will be used by the Government to collect this information. References other than those identified by the Offeror may be contacted by the Government with the information received used in evaluating the Offeror's past performance. The following information is required from all contracts cited as evidence of past performance:

Procurement activity and address
Procuring Contracting Officer's name, telephone number and address
Technical Point of Contact's name, telephone number and address
Contract No.
Type of contract
Award price
Final price

The Technical Point of Contact must possess specialized technical knowledge of the high-performance computing components covered under the respective contract.

L.7 COST REALISM

An offer is presumed to represent an Offeror's best efforts to respond to the solicitation. Any inconsistency, whether real or apparent, between promised performance and cost or price, should be explained in the proposal. For example, if the intended use of new and innovative production techniques is the basis for an abnormally low estimate, the nature of these techniques and their impact on cost/price should be explained; or, if a business policy decision has been made to absorb a portion of the estimated cost, that should be stated in the proposal. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, may raise a fundamental issue of understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of the Offeror's financial ability to perform the contract, and may be grounds for rejection of the offer. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the Offeror.

L.9 PRE-AWARD SURVEY

The Government reserves the right for a survey team to visit the Offeror's facility(s) for the purpose of determining the technical and financial ability to perform. A current financial statement and other data pertinent to this purpose should be available at the time the team makes the visit. The team will also consider the technical and financial ability of proposed subcontractors. Examples of the type of technical, financial and other capability matters the team will evaluate are (1) past experience with firm, (2) financial strength, (3) facilities, (4) ability to meet required delivery schedule, (5) subcontracting, (6) manpower availability and labor relations, (7) management controls and (8) any other areas pertinent to this offer.

L.10 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

The Government reserves the right:

1. To consider as acceptable only those proposals submitted in accordance with all technical requirements set forth or referenced in this solicitation and which demonstrate an understanding of the problems involved and the scope of the project.
2. To reject, as unacceptable, proposals deleting or altering technical requirements which are considered by the Government not to be beyond the state of the art nor impossible to attain.

L.11 UNACCEPTABLE OFFER TRANSMISSION METHODS

Neither telegraphic (including mailgrams), telefax, nor e-mail offers are authorized.

L.12 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS

Any changes to a proposal made by the Offeror after its initial submittal shall be accomplished by replacement pages. Changes from the original page shall be indicated

on the outside margin by vertical lines adjacent to the change. The Offeror shall include the date of the amendment on the lower right corner of the changed pages.

L.13 FINAL PROPOSAL REVISION

Upon completion of negotiations, all Offerors still within the competitive range will be requested to submit a final proposal revision. Following evaluation of final proposal revisions, the Offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government, considering the evaluation factors specified in Section M, will be selected for contract award.

L.14 SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507

(a) Small and small disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to participate as prime contractors or as members of joint ventures with other small businesses. All interested contractors are reminded that the successful contractor will be expected to place subcontracts to the maximum practicable extent with small and small disadvantaged firms in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 95-507 and Subpart 19.7 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(b) The following are the minimum goals for this acquisition:

1. Subcontracts to small business firms ---- 12.0%
2. Subcontracts to minority-owned firms ---- 7.0%
3. Subcontracts to women-owned businesses --- 1.0%

These goals are considered to be minimum goals for NOAA's subcontracts not ceiling goals or maximum goals.

L.15 HUBZONE SUBCONTRACTING GOALS

(A) The Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) Act of 1997 created the HUBZone Program. The purpose of this program is to provide federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in historically underutilized business zones in an effort to increase employment opportunities, investments, and economic development in these areas. Only those contractors listed on the Small Business Administration's PRO-Net site (<http://www.sba.gov>) at the time of contract award are qualified HUBZone contractors and can be considered by contractors in meeting their HUBZone small business subcontracting goals.

(B) The HUBZone goals established for the Department of Commerce are as follows:

1. FY2002 - 2.5% of the total value of the prime contract
2. FY2003 and subsequent years - 3.0% of the total value of the prime contract

L.16 INCURRING COSTS

The Government is not liable for any costs incurred by Offerors in submitting offers in response to this solicitation. Proposal costs may be included in an Offeror's G&A or overhead rates as appropriate.

L.17 SERVICE OF PROTEST (FAR 52.233-2) (AUG 1996)

(a) Protests, as defined in 33.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that are filed directly with an agency, and copies of any protests that are filed with the General Accounting Office (GAO) shall be served on the Contracting Officer (addressed as follows) by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from:

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division OFA611
1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

(b) The copy of any protest shall be received in the office designated above within one day of filing a protest with the GAO.

L.18 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE OF PROTEST

In addition to the above, protests shall also be served on the Contract Law Division of the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation located at:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Contract Law Division
Office of the General Counsel
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room H5893
14th Street, N.W. and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230
ATTN: Jerry Walz
FAX (202) 482-5858

L.19 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - SERVICE OF PROTESTS (CAR 1352.233-71) (MAR 2000)

An agency protest may be filed with either (1) the Contracting Officer, or (2) at a level above the Contracting Officer, with the agency Protest Decision Authority. See 64 Fed. Reg. 16,651 (April 6, 1999) (Internet site: <http://oamweb.ossec.doc.gov/conops/reflib/alp1296.htm>) for the procedures for filing agency protests at the level above the Contracting Officer (with the Protest Decision Authority).

Agency protests filed with the Contracting Officer shall be sent to the following address:

William L. Voitek, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division OFA611
1305 East West Highway, STA. 7604
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If a protest is filed with either the Protest Decision Authority, or with the General Accounting Office (GAO), a complete copy of the protest (including all attachments) shall be served upon both the Contracting Officer and Contract Law Division of the Office of the General Counsel within one day of filing with the Protest Decision Authority or with GAO. Service upon the Contract Law Division shall be made, as follows:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of the General Counsel
Contract Law Division--Room 5893
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230.
Attn: Jerry Walz, Esquire
FAX: (202) 482-5858

L.20 INVITATION TO PROPOSE FINANCING TERMS (FAR 52.232-31)(OCT 1995)

(a) The offeror is invited to propose terms under which the Government shall make contract financing payments during contract performance. The financing terms proposed by the offeror shall be a factor in the evaluation of the offeror's proposal. The financing terms of the successful offeror and the clause, Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, shall be incorporated in any resulting contract.

(b) The offeror agrees that in the event of any conflict between the terms proposed by the offeror and the terms in the clause at Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, the terms of the clause at 52.232-29 shall govern.

© Because of statutory limitations (10 U.S.C. 2307(f) and 41 U.S.C. 255(f)), the offeror's proposed financing shall not be accepted if it does not conform to the following limitations:

(1) Delivery payments shall be made only for supplies delivered and accepted, or services rendered and accepted in accordance with the payment terms of this contract:

(2) Contract financing payments shall not exceed 15 percent of the contract price in advance of any performance of work under the contract;

(3) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be appropriate and customary in the commercial marketplace; and

(4) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be in the best interest of the United States.

(d) The offeror's proposal of financing terms shall include the following:

(1) The proposed contractual language describing the contract financing (see FAR 32.202-2 for appropriate definitions of types of payments); and

(2) A listing of the earliest date and greatest amount at which each contract financing payment may be payable and the amount of each delivery payment. Any resulting contract shall provide that no contract financing payment shall be made at any earlier date or in a greater amount than shown in the offeror's listing.

(e) The offeror's proposed prices and financing terms shall be evaluated to determine the cost to the United States of the proposal using the interest rate and delivery scheduled specified elsewhere in this solicitation.

L.21 NOTICE TO OFFERORS

This Solicitation is issued pursuant to a U.S. Department of Commerce Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Project Agreement. The full text of the Project Agreement for this acquisition is located at the following web site:

<http://www.ncep.noaa.gov/CONOPS/OCCS/>

L.22 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS

Offerors may submit more than one proposal, so long as at least one proposal satisfies all of the mandatory requirement of the solicitation. As a minimum, one of the proposals submitted must be complete. The alternate proposal(s) may be in an abbreviated form following the same section format, but providing only those sections which differ in any way from those contained in the original proposal. Each proposal will include cost tables indicating the complete range of pricing options. In the case of price/cost options for a given configuration, an alternate proposal will not be required. If alternate proposals are submitted, such alternatives will be clearly labeled and identified on the cover page of each separate document. The reason for each alternate and its comparative benefits shall be explained. Each proposal submitted will be evaluated on its own merits. Alternate proposals may be no more than 100 pages in length.

Alternate proposals may be submitted within 30 calendar days from the proposal closing date and time specified in L.5, SUBMISSION OF OFFERS. Alternate proposals received during this 30 day period will only be accepted if the primary proposal was received by the closing date and time specified.